

Amendment to 10/730137 dated 7 July 2005Page 5 of 6REMARKSClaims 1-4, 7-9 and 11-14

The Office Action mailed on 11 March 2005 cites Okamura and Iron et al. in relation to claims 1-4, 7-9 and 11-14. As previously noted, Okamura discloses a system for making printing plates that includes a developer (5). Plates exposed by an exposure unit (3) cannot be bent until after they pass through developer (5) as bends in the plates would interfere with development of the plates. Also, as shown in Figure 3 of Okamura, a plate that is sharply bent along an edge could not pass through the plate-handling rollers of developer (5).

Iron et al. disclose an internal drum printing plate plotter that has a loading tray (24) for smoothly imparting an overall curve to a printing plate to facilitate loading the printing plate into a drum (21). Iron et al. expressly indicate that creasing of the plate is avoided (col. 3, ln. 41-2).

Claim 1 recites, "forming a sharp bend along one edge of the plate inside the computer-to-plate platesetter without developing the plate". As mentioned in the Amendment filed on 21 December 2004, Okamura fails to disclose or suggest such a method. The Applicant submits that Iron et al. fail to remedy this deficiency. Iron et al. do not disclose or suggest forming a sharp bend along one edge of the plate as claimed since Iron et al. direct their efforts to smoothly feeding the plate into the imaging drum. Iron et al. teach away from creasing a plate.

Claim 4 recites forming a sharp bend in a printing plate and is submitted to distinguish the combination of Okamura and Iron et al. for the reasons above.

Claims 10, 15 and 16

The Office Action cites Nakayama et al. in combination with Okamura and Irons et al. in relation to claims 10, 15 and 16. Nakayama et al. disclose platemaking apparatus for making plates of a highly flexible material such as plastic film or paper cut from a roll. The highly flexible material of the Nakayama et al. plates are designed to use holes punched in the plates as position references (para. [0022]).

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The Applicant submits that Nakayama et al. fail to remedy the deficiencies of Iron et al. and Okamura. Nakayama et al. do not disclose or suggest forming a sharp bend along an edge of a printing plate as claimed in claim 4. There would be no reason to form such a bend in the Nakayama et al. context, nor is it clear that the highly flexible materials used by Nakayama et al. would take such a bend.

Claims 5-6

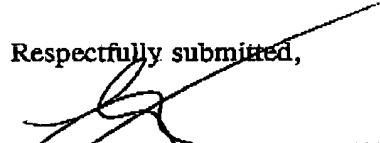
The Office Action cites the combination of Okamura and Nakayama et al. in relation to claims 5-6. For the reasons above, neither Okamura nor Nakayama et al. disclose or suggest apparatus that include a bender configured to form sharp bends along edges of printing plates wherein the bender is positioned to receive imaged printing plates directly from an imaging system as claimed in claim 5.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, the Applicant submits that all claims of this application patentably distinguish the cited references. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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